



US Army Corps
Of Engineers
Wilmington District

PUBLIC NOTICE

Issue Date: July 29, 2005
Comment Deadline: August 29, 2005
Corps Action ID #: 200521041

All interested parties are hereby advised that the Wilmington District, Corps of Engineers (Corps) has received an application for work within jurisdictional waters of the United States. Specific plans and location information are described below and overall plans showing the location of the proposed construction and impact sites are attached. This Public Notice and all attached plans are also available on the Wilmington District Web Site at www.saw.usace.army.mil/wetlands.

Applicant: North Carolina Department Of Transportation, Division Of Highways
1548 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1548

Authority

This application is being considered pursuant to Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344). Any person may request, in writing within the comment period specified in the notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearing shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

Project

The project involves construction of improvements to US 220 (T.I.P. No. R-2309AB) by widening and constructing turn lanes. The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes to widen US 220 to a four-lane median divided facility on existing location. The total length for the proposed project is approximately 5.4 miles consisting of a four-lane roadway, with 12 foot travel lanes, and a raised, grassed median, 23 feet wide and on a 150 to 200 foot right-of way.

Location

US 220 crossing unnamed tributaries of Horsepen Creek, Brush Creek (Lake Higgins), Reedy Fork Creek (Lake Brandt), and Mears Fork Creek between SR 2182 (Horsepen Creek Road) and 0.2 mile north of SR 2113 (Windfree Road), north of Greensboro, in Guilford County, North Carolina.

Existing Site Conditions

US 220 is a two-lane highway with mostly grass shoulders in the piedmont of North Carolina. The existing corridor parallels increasing commercial retail and business development with an

occasional single-family residence. The road mostly follows a ridgeline and has perpendicular crossings of headwater bed and bank perennial stream channels with little or no adjacent riparian areas. The existing road crosses just below the Lake Higgins Dam and the upper limits of Lake Brandt, which are both water supply reservoirs for the City of Greensboro.

Applicant's Stated Purpose

The purpose of the work is to increase the traffic carrying capacity along the subject section of US 220 north of Greensboro. Additionally the purpose of the project is to address the structural deficiencies of bridge numbers 301, 307, and 313 and the culvert located 0.6 mile north of SR 2182 (Horsepen Creek Road).

Project Description

The social, economic, and environmental impacts associated with reasonable and feasible construction alternatives for this project have been described in an NCDOT/Federal Highway Administration Environmental Assessment dated December 6, 2004.

The following description of the work is taken from data provided by the applicant. For the purpose of evaluating impacts to the physical and natural environment, the proposed project was divided into three sections (i.e. Section A, B, and C). Section A begins at SR 2182 (Horsepen Creek Road) and ends just north of SR 2337 (Owl's Roost Road). Section A is partially located within the city limits of Greensboro. Section B begins at the end of Section A and ends just north of SR 2117 (Summerfield Road). Section B is located within the boundaries of the watershed critical areas for Lake Higgins and Lake Brandt. Section C begins at the end of Section B and ends 0.2 miles north of SR 2313 (Windfree Road). Section C is located within the town limits of Summerfield. Two construction alternatives have been brought forward for Section A (alternative 3A1, best fit widening with shoulders of the existing alignment and alternative 3A2, best fit widening of the existing alignment with curb and gutter to accommodate sidewalks), two construction alternatives have been brought forward for Section B (alternative 1B1, east side widening of the existing alignment with shoulders and alternative 1B2, east side widening of the existing alignment with shoulders and expressway gutter in front of the Center for Creative Leadership Campus), and a single proposal has been brought forward for Section C (alternative 3C, best fit widening with shoulders and channelization).

All of the alternatives propose to widen US 220 to a multilane facility and are shown on the attached maps. The Mass Transportation and "No Build" alternatives are also discussed in the NCDOT/Federal Highway Administration Environmental Assessment dated December 6, 2004. By Concurrence Form dated March 11, 2004, the Corps of Engineers agreed with these construction alternatives to be studied in detail.

The wetlands that would be impacted by the project are riparian bottomland hardwood wetlands and jurisdictional stream channels. Wetland and stream channel impact sites by alternative are designated in the following table.

Impacts by alternative are as follows:

Section A

Impact Category	Alternative 3A1	Alternative 3A2		
Wetland acres	0.06	0.07		
Stream Channel Linear Feet	298	184		

Section B

Impact Category	Alternative 1B1	Alternative 1B2		
Wetland acres	0.89	0.89		
Stream Channel Linear Feet	78	78		

Section C

Impact Category	Alternative 1C			
Wetland acres	0.9			
Stream Channel Linear Feet	2035			

In order to more fully integrate Section 404 permit requirements with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and to give careful consideration to our required public interest review and 404 (b)(1) compliance determination, the Corps of Engineers is soliciting public comment on the merits of the proposal and on the alternatives evaluated in the NCDOT/Federal Highway Administration Environmental Assessment dated December 6, 2004. At the close of this comment period, the District Engineer will evaluate and consider the comments received as well as the expected adverse and beneficial impacts of the proposed road construction to select the least environmentally damaging, practicable alternative (LEDPA). The District Engineer is not authorizing construction of the Greensboro – High Point Road improvements at this time. A final Department of the Army permit could be issued, if at all, only after our review process is complete, impacts to the aquatic environment have been minimized to the maximum extent practicable, and a compensatory mitigation plan has been approved.

NCDOT is committed to incorporating all reasonable and practicable design features to avoid and minimize surface waters and wetland impacts and to provide full compensatory mitigation of remaining jurisdictional impacts.

Detailed discussions of the purpose and need for the project are presented in the NCDOT/Federal Highway Administration Environmental Assessment dated December 6, 2004, in Section I.A. The purpose of the work is to increase the traffic carrying capacity along the subject section of US 220 north of Greensboro. Additionally the purpose of the project is to address the structural deficiencies of bridge numbers 301, 307, and 313 and the culvert located 0.6 mile north of SR 2182 (Horsepen Creek Road).

Functional design plans and the NCDOT/Federal Highway Administration Environmental Assessment dated December 6, 2004, are available for review at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Field Office at 6508 Falls of Neuse Road, Suite 120; Raleigh, North Carolina 27615-6846.

Other Required Authorizations

The State of North Carolina will review this public notice to determine the need for the applicant to obtain any required State authorization. No Department of the Army permit will be issued until the coordinated State viewpoint on the proposal has been received and reviewed by this agency, nor will a Department of the Army permit be issued until the North Carolina Division of Water Quality has determined the applicability of a Water Quality Certificate as required by PL 92-500.

Cultural Resources

The Corps has consulted the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places and is not aware that any registered properties, or properties listed as being eligible for inclusion therein are located within the project area or will be affected by the proposed work. Presently, unknown archeological, scientific, prehistoric, or historical data may be located within the project area and/or could be affected by the proposed work.

Endangered Species

The Corps has reviewed the project area, examined all information provided by the applicant and consulted the latest North Carolina Natural Heritage Database. As of February 18, 2003, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) listed the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucephalus*) as the only federally-protected species for Guilford County. A pair of bald eagles nested the spring of 2003 at a past known nest site located on the northern shore of Lake Brandt which is located approximately 0.5 miles west of the proposed project. Section 7 consultations with the USFWS will be necessary to resolve any potential effects to the bald eagle. All necessary consultations and resulting actions will occur prior to issuance of any Department of the Army permit.

Evaluation

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values (in accordance with Executive Order 11988), land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. For activities involving the discharge of dredged or fill materials in waters of the United States, the evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will include application of the Environmental Protection Agency's 404(b)(1) guidelines.

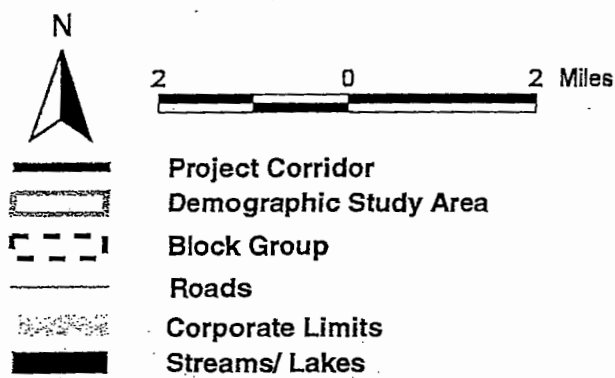
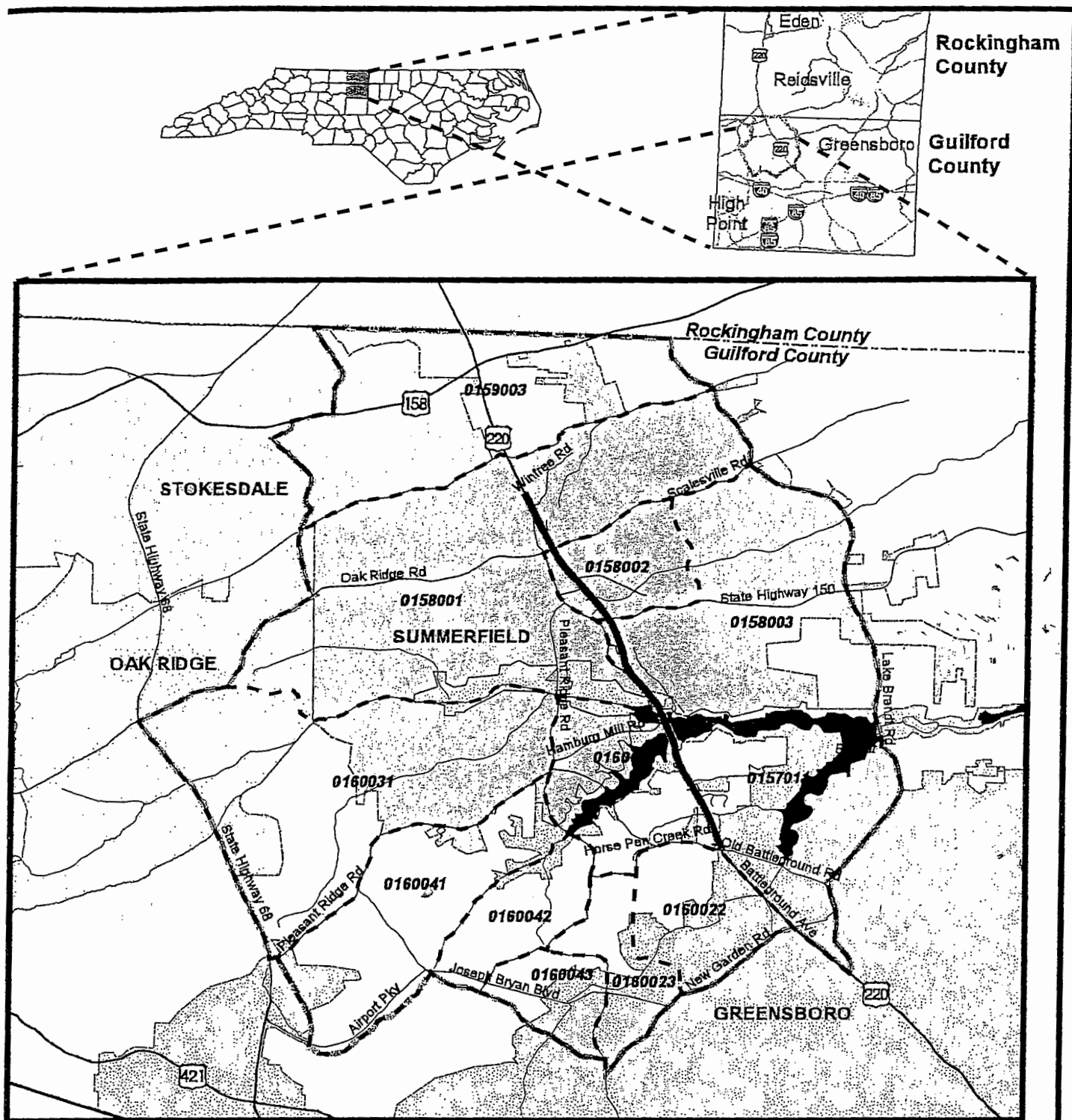
Commenting Information

The Corps is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) and/or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider the application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. Requests for a public hearing shall be granted, unless the District Engineer determines that the issues raised are insubstantial or there is otherwise no valid interest to be served by a hearing.

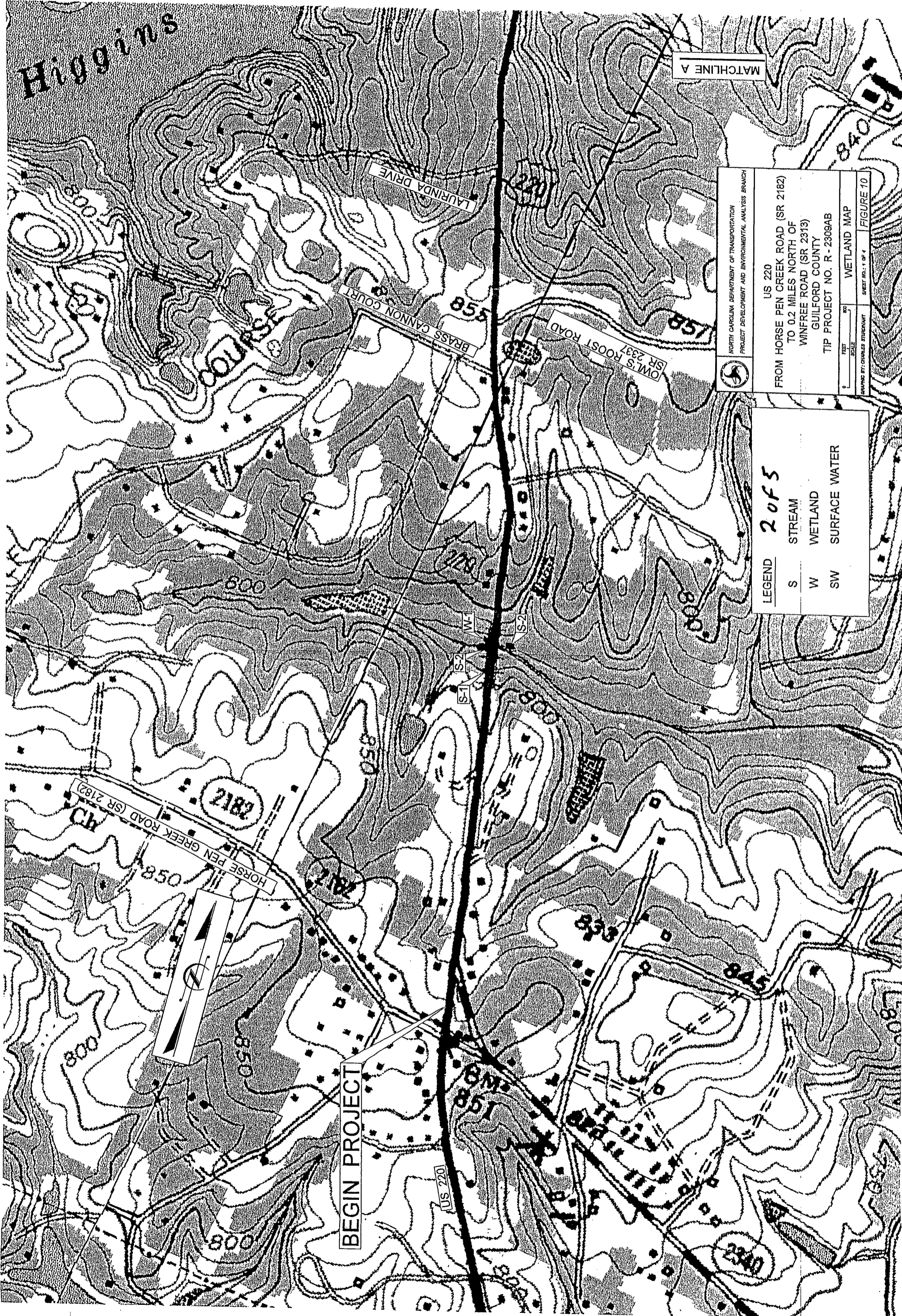
Written comments pertinent to the proposed work, as outlined above, will be received by the Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District, until 5pm, August 29, 2005. Comments should be submitted to:

John Thomas
Wilmington District, Corps of Engineers
Raleigh Regulatory Field Office
6508 Falls of Neuse Road, Suite 120
Raleigh, North Carolina 27615-6814
Telephone (919) 876-8441




	<p>NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS BRANCH</p>
<p>Guilford County, North Carolina US 220 from Hoursepen Creek Road to 0.2 Miles North of Winfree Road T.I.P. Project No. R-2309AB</p>	

Figure 8



MATCHLINE A



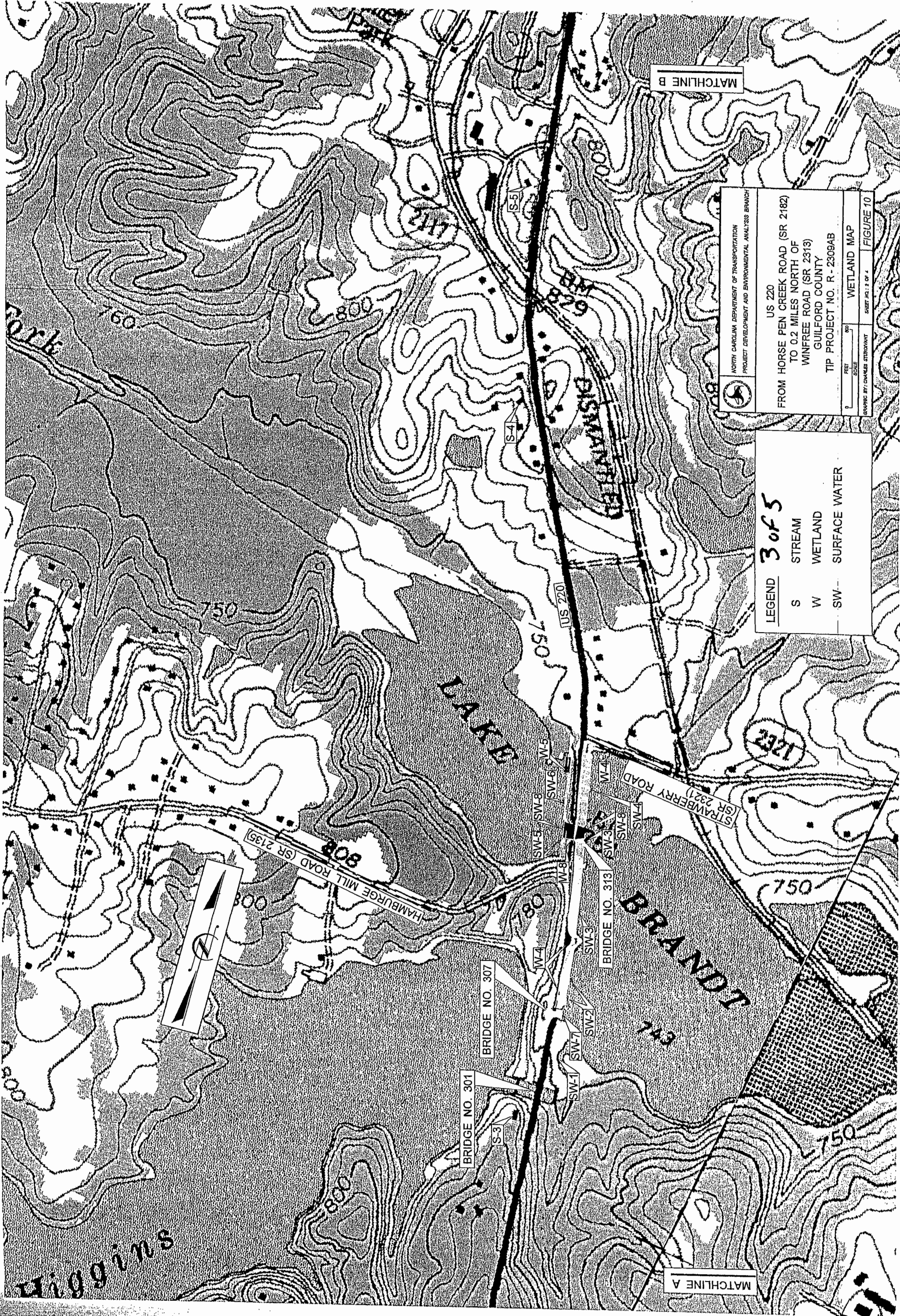
NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS BRANCH


US 220
FROM HORSE PEN CREEK ROAD (SR 2182)
TO 0.2 MILES NORTH OF
WINFREE ROAD (SR 2313)
GUILFORD COUNTY
TIP PROJECT NO. R-2309AB

FIGURE 10
SHEET NO. 1 OF 4

LEGEND		20f5
S	STREAM	
W	WETLAND	
SW	SURFACE WATER	

BEGIN PROJECT





NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS BRANCH

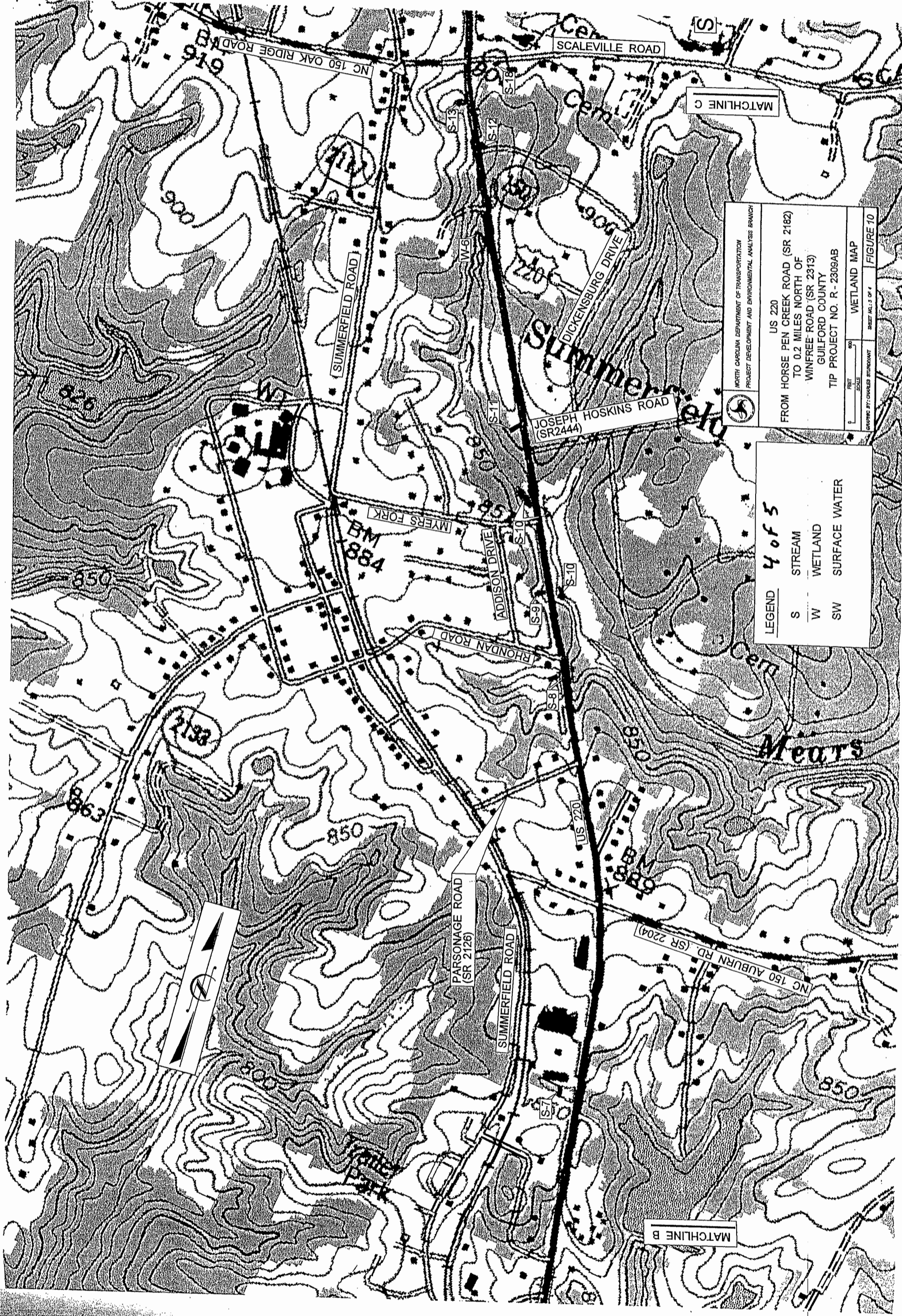
US 220
FROM HORSE PEN CREEK ROAD (SR 2182)
TO 0.2 MILES NORTH OF
WINFREE ROAD (SR 2313)
GUILFORD COUNTY
TIP PROJECT NO. R-2309AB

0 30 60
FEET
SCALE

WETLAND MAP
SHEET NO. 2 OF 4
FIGURE 10

LEGEND 3 of 5

S STREAM
W WETLAND
SW-- SURFACE WATER



MATCHLINE C

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS BRANCH

US 220
FROM HORSE PEN CREEK ROAD (SR 2182)
TO 0.2 MILES NORTH OF
WINFREE ROAD (SR 2313)
GUILFORD COUNTY
TIP PROJECT NO. R-2309AB

FIGURE 10
SHEET NO. 1 OF 1
WETLAND MAP

LEGEND 4 of 5

- S STREAM
- W WETLAND
- SW SURFACE WATER

MATCHLINE B



NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS BRANCH

US 220
FROM HORSE PEN CREEK ROAD (SR 2182)
TO 0.2 MILES NORTH OF
WINFREE ROAD (SR 2313)
GUILFORD COUNTY
TIP PROJECT NO. R-2309AB

FEET
SCALE
0 500
WETLAND MAP
SHEET NO. 1 OF 4
FIGURE 10

LEGEND
S of 5

S STREAM
W WETLAND
SW SURFACE WATER